

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated February 18, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 18, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1 - 20 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claim 12 stands rejected and claims 1 - 11 and 17 - 20 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Claims 13 - 16 were objected to by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

I. Rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Auranen (U.S. Patent Application Publications Number 2003/0012305 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants submit that Auranen is not proper prior art. The Auranen reference has a filing date of June 28, 2002. The related foreign application was filed on June 29, 2001, which is two months after the filing date of the Applicants' non-provisional application.

Therefore, the Applicants submit that claim 12 as it now stands, fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and is patentable thereunder. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-11 and 17-20. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 13 - 16.

Claims 13 - 16 were objected to as being allowable but depending from a rejected base claim. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the conditional allowability of such subject matter, but have hereinabove provided arguments refuting the rejections of the independent claim. Thus, no changes to the dependent claims are made at this time.

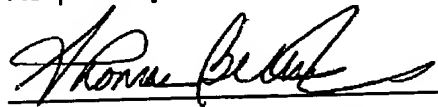
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Atty. Dkt. No. SAR 13995**Conclusion**

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

5/17/2005
Date

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Bethea, Jr., Attorney
Reg. No. 53,987
(732) 530-9404
Moser, Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702